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Title: Need to ensure safety of women passengers in train.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to draw the attention of this House and the Government to a tragic and shocking incident. A few days back, a girl was brutally raped and killed in the ladies' compartment of a running train in Kerala. This has exposed the negligence of the Railways as far as the safety of passengers, especially women passengers, is concerned. What is even more shocking is that recently the Railways have filed an affidavit before the High Court of Kerala in which it is stated that it is the responsibility of the women passengers to prevent anti-social elements from entering into ladies' compartment. It further says that women passengers are not showing vigilance in preventing these anti-social elements from entering into ladies' compartment. What does it mean? It means that passengers, especially women passengers, are traveling in the trains at their own risk and the Railways has no responsibility at all as far as the safety of passengers is concerned.

So, I would urge upon the Government in the context of this tragic incident to clarify whether this is the official position of the Railway Ministry or the Government that it is the responsibility of the passengers. If this is not the official position of the Government, the Railway Ministry should inquire into this incident as to how this affidavit was filed, and action should be taken against those who are responsible for giving this affidavit.

Secondly, thousands of posts are lying vacant in the Railway Protection Force.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a different subject. You can raise only one subject.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH : Sir, this is related to the safety of the passengers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can discuss this during the debate on Railway Budget. I am sorry. You have raised one issue, that is all right, but going to the second subject cannot be allowed.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH : No, I am not going to another subject. I would urge upon the Government to take all steps to ensure the safety of the passengers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can understand this thing. Only one issue has to be mentioned and not many issues though they may be relating to the Railway Ministry.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH : Sir, it is not a different subject. I just want to urge upon the Government that the Government should take all possible steps to ensure adequate safety of the passengers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) â€¦ *